[House Bill, No. 28.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—May 4, 1864—Read first and second times, referred to Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed. May 9, 1864—Reported back, committee discharged, and referred to Committee on Commerce. May 12, 1864—Reported back with amendments, ordered to be placed on Calendar and printed.

[By Mr. Perkins.]

A BILL

To be entitled an act to establish a Bureau of Foreign Supplies in the War Department, with an agency in the Trans-Mississippi Department.

Section 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That for the purpose of exporting cotton and other produce to supply, by imports, the military and other necessities of the government during the continuance of the war with the United States, an independent bureau of the War Department be established, to be entitled the "Bureau of Foreign Supplies."

Sec. 2. That the said bureau shall be charged with the purchase of cotton and other produce for export, and with the sale of the same, and with all the duties and expenditures connected with the purchase and import of munitions of war, and such other supplies as may be required by the several departments of the government.

Sec. 3. That all steamers now owned by any of the departments of the government, and used to supply their necessities

from abroad, may be continued in that use, but shall be turned over to the Navy Department, to be officered, manned, equipped and sailed, under direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

SEC. 4. That the chief of this bureau shall, under the Secretary of War, have full power to purchase and contract for such vessels and steamers, to be owned wholly or in part by the government, as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties imposed upon the bureau, and to obtain the general objects of its establishment, as set forth in the first section of this act: *Provided*, That in the purchase of such vessels the chief of said bureau shall be guided by an officer of the navy, to be designated by the Secretary of the Navy, and that all vessels in which the government has a controlling interest may be delivered to the Secretary of the Navy, to be officered, manned, equipped and sailed, under his direction.

SEC. 5. That all permits or licenses for the exportation of cotton or other domestic produce on private account, that may be authorized by the act of Congress entitled "an act to impose regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, and to provide for the public defence," shall be issued from this bureau, under such regulations as may be prescribed in the said act, or under any authority granted therein to the President, the Secretary of War or other department, and under such conditions as may be effectual to secure the fulfillment of the objects of the present act: *Provided*, That nothing in the present act shall be

construed to affect the export of any cotton or other produce under the control of the Treasury or other department, to secure any of the bonds or obligations of the Confederate States.

SEC. 6. That the said bureau shall cause to be paid into the Treasury all moneys that may accrue from the sales of cotton or other produce that may be disposed of under its authority, and that the proceeds shall be apportioned among the several departments, under instructions of the President, and be drawn for as in other cases of appropriations.

SEC. 7. That the said bureau shall consist of one colonel and one lieutenant colonel, with the pay and allowances of officers of artillery of the same grades, and such inferior officers as may be assigned to that duty, with such agents and clerks as may be deemed necessary by the President, whose compensation shall be fixed by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 8. That the chief of said bureau may appoint suitable purchasing agents of known integrity and business capacity, who shall be charged with the purchase of cotton and other produce, and the transportation of the same to points for shipment, under regulations to be prescribed by the chief of said bureau, under the approval of the President and Secretary of War. Each of said agents shall, before entering upon his duties, give bond, with good and sufficient security, to be approved by chief of said bureau, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duty, and shall also take and subscribe an oath before some officer autho-

rized by law to administer the same, that he will not directly or indirectly be engaged in the purchase or sale, on private account, for himself or any other person, of any cotton or other produce appertaining to his said agency, while so employed as agent of the government.

SEC. 9. That any officer or agent, connected with said bureau, who shall be guilty of buying or selling, directly or indirectly, on private account, for himself or any other person, any cotton or other produce, of which said bureau is charged with the purchase, shall, upon conviction before any court of the Confederate States having jurisdiction, be fined by the court in a sum not exceeding dollars, and be imprisoned for a term not less than nor more than years.

SEC. 10. That there shall be established an agency of said bureau, and auxiliary thereto, for the states west of the Mississippi river, the officers of which shall consist of one lieutenant colonel of artillery, and such inferior officers as may be assigned to that duty, with such agents as may be deemed necessary by the President, whose compensation shall be fixed by the Secretary of War. Said agency shall establish its office at such place in the states west of the Mississippi, as may be selected by the chief officer thereof; and shall be charged with the purchase and exportation of cotton and other produce, and the importation of munitions of war and other supplies for the army of the Trans-Mississippi Department, and such other supplies as may be needed

by the government, or any of its departments in said military department.

SEC. 11. Such agency and the chief officer thereof shall possess like power and duties for the states west of the Mississippi river, as are conferred by this act upon said bureau and the chief officer thereof, but subordinate and subject to said bureau.

SEC. 12. That the purchasing agents west of the Mississippi river shall take the oath and give bond as provided in the eighth section of this act; and the officers and agents shall be subject to the penalties prescribed by the ninth section, if found guilty of the offence specified therein.

SEC. 13. That the said agency shall have power to establish such interior depots for the receipt of cotton and other produce intended for exportation into or through Mexico, as may be deemed necessary and proper, and may also prescribe rules and regulations for granting permits to individuals to transport cotton or other produce to said depots, as well as seaports, and may impose such terms and conditions, beneficial to the government, as a consideration for such permits, as may be deemed just and proper.

SEC. 14. That the business of the Cotton Bureau established under a special order of Lieutenant General E. Kirby Smith, commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department, be and the same is hereby transferred to the said agency of said bureau west of the Mississippi river, and the operations and transactions of said

bureau, established as aforesaid, not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

AMENDMENTS

Of the Committee on Commerce to bill to be entitled an act to establish a Bureau of Foreign Supplies in the War Department, with an agency in the Trans-Mississippi Department.

Add the following at the end of section 5: "*And provided further*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit any of the Confederate States from exporting cotton or other produce on their own account."

Fill the blanks in section 9 as follows: First blank, "ten thousand dollars;" second blank, "twelve months;" third blank, "five years."

In section 10, line 10, after the words "chief officer thereof," insert "under the direction of the General commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department."

In section 13, line 5, after "necessary and proper," insert "under the direction of the General commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department."